

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Competitive Product Prices
Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service
& Parcel Select
Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service
& Parcel Select Contract 7

Docket No. MC2023-116

Competitive Product Prices
Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service
& Parcel Select Contract 7 (MC2023-116)
Negotiated Service Agreement

Docket No. CP2023-119

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON
POSTAL SERVICE REQUEST TO ADD
PRIORITY MAIL, FIRST-CLASS PACKAGE SERVICE &
PARCEL SELECT CONTRACT 7
TO COMPETITIVE PRODUCT LIST

(March 7, 2023)

The Public Representative hereby provides comments pursuant to a Commission Notice initiating this docket.¹ In that Notice, the Commission established the above referenced docket to receive comments from interested persons, including the undersigned Public Representative, on a Postal Service Request to add Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 7 to the competitive product list.²

The Postal Service's Request includes a Statement of Supporting Justification, a certification of compliance with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a), a public (redacted) version of Governor's Decision No. 19-1 and related analysis, a public version of Priority Mail,

¹ Notice Initiating Docket(s) for Recent Postal Service Negotiated Service Agreement Filings, February 28, 2023. (Notice).

² Request of the United States Postal Service to Add Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 7 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal, February 27. (Request).

First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select shipping services Contract 7, and proposed changes to the competitive product list within the Mail Classification Schedule with the additions underlined. The Postal Service also filed under seal an unredacted version of Governor's Decision No. 19-1 and Contract 7, and supporting financial data estimating the contract value during the first year.

According to the Postal Service, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 7 is a competitive product featuring rates "not of general applicability" within the meaning of 39 U.S.C. § 3632(b)(3). Request at 1. The Postal Service also maintains that the prices and classification changes applicable to Contract 7 are supported by Governors' Decision No. 19-1.³ The Postal Service further asserts that the Statement of Supporting Justification (Statement) provides support for adding Contract 7 to the competitive product list and the compliance of the instant contract with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a). Request at 2; *Id.*, Attachment D.

The effective date for Contract 7 is three (3) business days following the day on which the Commission issues all necessary regulatory approval. Attachment B at 12. The contract will expire three (3) years from the unless either party terminates the contract on 30 days' prior written notification, or other specific events. Attachment B at 18.

COMMENTS

The Public Representative has reviewed the Postal Service's Request, the Statement of Supporting Justification, as well as Contract 7 and the financial data filed under seal with the Postal Service's Request. Based upon that review, the Public Representative concludes that Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 7 should be classified as a competitive product and added to the

³ Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on Establishment of Domestic Competitive Agreements, Outbound International Competitive Agreements, Inbound International Competitive Agreements, and Other Non-Published Competitive Rates, February 7, 2019 (Governors' Decision No. 19-1).

competitive product list. In addition, it appears that Contract 7 in the first year should generate sufficient revenues to cover costs and thereby satisfy 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a).

Product List Assignment. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 3642, the Postal Service requests that Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 7 be added to the competitive product list. 39 U.S.C. § 3642 requires the Commission to consider whether “the Postal Service exercises sufficient market power that it can effectively set the price of such product substantially above costs, raise prices significantly, decrease quality, or decrease output, without risk of losing a significant level of business to other firms offering similar products.” 39 U.S.C. § 3642(b)(1). Products over which the Postal Service exercises such power are categorized as market dominant while all others are categorized as competitive.

The Postal Service’s Statement of Supporting Justification (Statement) makes a number of assertions that address the considerations of section 3642(b)(1). Request, Attachment D at 2. These assertions appear reasonable. Based upon the Statement, the Public Representative concludes that the Postal Service’s Request to add Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 7 to the competitive product list is appropriate.

Requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 3633. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a), the Postal Service’s competitive prices must not result in the subsidization of competitive products by market dominant products; ensure that each competitive product will cover its attributable costs; and, ensure that all competitive products collectively contribute an appropriate share of the institutional costs of the Postal Service. Based upon a review of the financial data, the negotiated prices for Contract 7 should generate sufficient revenues to cover costs during the first year of the contract and therefore meet the requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a). However, the Postal Service provides no definite evidence to demonstrate that the contract will comply with the requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a) during the second and third years of the contract. This concern is largely mitigated by the nature of their pricing structure.

Finally, the Postal Service must file revenue and cost data for Contract 7 in future Annual Compliance Reports. This data will permit the Commission to annually review the financial results for Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 7 in a future Annual Compliance Determination (ACD) report for compliance with 39 U.S.C. § 3633(a).

The Public Representative respectfully submits the foregoing comments for the Commission's consideration.

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